

Message Text

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FOR TODMAN FROM STEDMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: DAILY ARA SUMMARY - AUGUST 17

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO HAITI: ALTHOUGH U.S.
PRESS COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S STATEMENTS IN HAITI
HAS TENDED TO STRESS YOUNG'S "WARNINGS" TO THE GOH, OUR
EMBASSY IN PORT-AU-PRINCE REPORTS THAT THE VISIT HAD A
VERY PROFOUND AND CONSTRUCTIVE IMPACT IN HAITI.

THE VISIT WAS CLOUDED AT THE BEGINNING BY A DISPUTE AS
TO WHETHER TIME CORRESPONDENT BERNARD DIETRICH, AUTHOR
OF THE STRONGLY ANTI-DUVALIER BOOK PAPA DOC, WOULD BE
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ALLOWED TO ENTER HAITI WITH THE YOUNG PARTY. THE GOH
INITIALLY SAID THAT DIETRICH, WHO HAS BEEN PERSONA NON
GRATA TO THE GOH SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF PAPA DOC, WOULD
NOT BE WELCOME. AMBASSADOR YOUNG INSISTED, AND THE GOH
RELENTED, BUT THE INCIDENT MADE AN INAUSPICIOUS BEGINNING
FOR THE VISIT.

IN YOUNG'S MEETINGS WITH DUVALIER, HOWEVER, DUVALIER TOLD AMBASSADOR YOUNG HIS GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO (A) INVITE A MISSION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO VISIT HAITI, AND (B) TO RESTORE HABEAS CORPUS FOR

ALL PERSONS DETAINED AND LIMIT DETENTION WITHOUT JUDICIAL HEARING TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL LIMIT OF 48 HOURS. DUVALIER ALSO PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE THE CASES OF 20 HAITIAN PRISONERS LISTED IN A LETTER AMBASSADOR YOUNG DELIVERED TO HIM, AND EITHER RELEASE THEM, IF HE FOUND THEM TO BE HELD WITHOUT PROPER CHARGES, OR BRING THEM TO TRIAL.

THESE COMMITMENTS BY DUVALIER, IF THEY MATERIALIZE, ARE SIGNIFICANT. THE PROMISE TO INVITE A MISSION OF THE IAHRC--A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH--WAS UNHEDGED, AND HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED WIDELY IN THE HAITIAN MEDIA AND U.S. WIRE SERVICES.

2. UPDATE ON PANAMA CANAL TREATY: YOU HAVE SEEN STATEMENTS MADE BY FORMER PRESIDENT FORD AND FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER ON THE AGREEMENT. THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT TODAY WAS AN APPEARANCE BY THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS BEFORE AN OPEN SESSION OF THE PANAMA CANAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION, THE SUBCOMMITTEE

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AGREED TO HOLD A FOLLOW-UP EXECUTIVE SESSION AT A STILL-TO-BE DETERMINED DATE.

IN ADDITION RICHARD WYROUGH MET WITH SENATOR THURMOND TO BRIEF HIM ON THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS; THURMOND AND DOLVIN/WYROUGH WILL REPRESENT OPPOSITE SIDES TONIGHT ON THE MCNEIL-LEHRER PROGRAM ON PANAMA.

3. THE BAHAMAS: CUBAN EXILE OPERATIONS: ON AUGUST 15 U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN MIAMI ARRESTED PEDRO GIL, ONE OF THE LEADERS OF A CUBAN EXILE GROUP WHICH HAD PLANNED TO ATTACK CUBA FROM ANGUILLA CAY IN THE BAHAMAS, AND SEIZED A LARGE QUANTITY OF WEAPONS AND SUPPLIES. THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT COOPERATED WITH U.S. CUSTOMS AGENTS IN LOCATING THE ADVANCE BASE ON ANGUILLA CAY AND FINDING A SIZABLE CACHE OF FUEL HIDDEN BY THE EXILES. WE HAVE INFORMED THE BAHAMIANS OF GIL'S ARREST AND ARE SEEKING PERMISSION FOR THE ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY TO REMOVE ONE OF THE DRUMS OF FUEL FROM ANGUILLA CAY FOR USE IN PROSECUTING GIL.

4. RELEASE OF PRISONER: ONE OF THE 44 US PRISONERS IN

BOLIVIA, WILLIAM MARRERO, WAS RELEASED FROM A SANTA
CRUZ PRISON ON AUGUST 16. THE RELEASE RESULTED FROM A
FAVORABLE SUPREME COURT DECISION ON MARRERO HABEAS CORPUS.
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